

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 CU-04 SAJ-01 SSO-00

DRC-01 EB-11 CCO-00 /143 W
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P R 090420Z NOV 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 963

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1364

PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY (ISLAMABAD)

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: ADVERSE PRC REACTION TO AAU SUSPENSION OF SWIMMERS
WHO VISITED CHINA

1. MRS. WILLIAM A. HEWITT, WIFE OF MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON U.S. - CHINA TRADE DELEGATION NOW VISITING PRC, HAD CONVERSATION NOVEMBER 8 WITH SUNG CHUNG, SECRETARY OF ALL-CHINA SPORTS FEDERATION. THIS CONVERSATION ARRANGED AT MRS. HEWITT'S REQUEST IN LIGHT OF HER OWN INTEREST IN SPORTS (SHE IS KEEN SPORTSWOMAN AND HAS BEEN NOMINATED AS U.S. MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE).

2. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH SUNG CHUNG, HE INDICATED THAT CHINESE WERE "DEEPLY AFFRONTED" BY AAU SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS OF U.S. SWIMMING TEAM WHICH VISITED CHINA LAST SUMMER, AND AS A RESULT HAVE HALTED ALL FURTHER ATHLETIC CONTACTS WITH THE U.S. HE SAID THAT THE CHINESE REGARDED AAU ACTION AS SUPPORTIVE OF TWO CHINAS AND AS BEING HOSTILE TO THE PRC.

3. ACCORDING TO MRS. HEWITT, SHE EXPLAINED COMPLEXITIES OF
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ORGANIZATIONAL POLITICS RELATING TO OLYMPIC-TYPE ATHLETICS,

INCLUDING PROBLEMS IN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL PARENT BODIES (E.G. FINA) TO WHICH NATIONAL ATHLETIC GROUPS SUCH AS AAU ARE AFFILIATED. SHE REPORTS THAT SUNG CHUNG WAS SOMEWHAT MOLLIFIED BY THIS EXPLANATION, AND THAT ATMOSPHERICS OF CONVERSATION IMPROVED THEREAFTER.

4. THIS IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF ADVERSE CHINESE REACTION TO AAU SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS OF VISITING U.S. SWIMMING TEAM. IT WOULD APPEAR DESIRABLE TO CHECK FURTHER INTO THIS MATTER WITH CHINESE WITH A VIEW TOWARDS ELIMINATING ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND PUTTING US-PRC ATHLETIC EXCHANGES BACK ON THE RAILS, IF INDEED THE CHINESE HAVE SUSPENDED THEM. TO THIS END, WE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE FULL DETAILS OF CURRENT STATE OF AAU SUSPENSION OF SWIMMERS AND RESULTS OF THEIR PROTEST. WE WILL THEN SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH APPROPRIATE PRC SPORTS ORGANIZATION.
BRUCE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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